

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 /083 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 6395

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MO, XF, EG  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION SADAT TRIP IN MOROCCAN PRESS

1. SUMMARY: PRO-GOVERNMENT MOROCCAN PRESS, ECHOING WORDS OF KING HASSAN, WARMLY PRAISES SADAT INITIATIVE. ISTIQLAL PAPERS, CAUGHT BETWEEN PARTY'S OBLIGATIONS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS STRONG COMMITMENT TO PALESTINIANS, EXPRESS AMBIGUOUS VIEWS WHICH SIMULTANEOUSLY FIND HOPE FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD GENEVA WHILE REPRODUCING BITTER PALESTINIAN DENUNCIATIONS OF SADAT. END SUMMARY

2. SADAT INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO GENERATE FRONT-PAGE COMMENT IN MOROCCAN PRESS. PRO-GOVERNMENT FRENCH LANGUAGE LE MATIN AND MAROC SOIR CARRY LENGTHY EDITORIAL BY DIRECTOR MOULAY AHMED ALAOUI PRAISING SADAT'S COURAGE AND DRAWING PARALLELS BETWEEN JERUSALEM VISIT AND PAST ACTS OF CONCILIATION ON PART OF KING HASSAN. ALAOUI EVOKES FIRST MEETING IN 1970 BETWEEN ARAB CHIEF OF STATE AND ZIONIST LEADER, THAT OF HASSAN WITH NAHUM GOLDMANN, AND MOROCCO'S POLICY OF ENCOURAGING RETURN OF MOROCCAN JEWISH EMIGRES TO HOMELAND. KING'S WORDS AT MEETING WITH GOLDMANN WERE PROPHETIC, ACCORDING TO ALAOUI: "I BELIEVE IN THE URGENCY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF A JEWISH-ARAB DIALOGUE WITHIN PALESTINE." WRITER ALSO RECALLS KING'S RECENT DECLARATION, IN FRANCE SOIR  
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INTERVIEW, ON FUTILITY OF EXTREMISM, AND CRITICIZES CERTAIN ARAB STATES FOR THE VIRULENCE OF THEIR ATTACKS ON SADAT, NOW, CONTRASTED WITH THEIR EARLIER RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT ON THE GOLAN AND SINAI FRONTS. "THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SENSITIZED BY THE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE. IN WORDS OF SECRETARY VANCE, ISRAEL CANNOT FAIL TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT HAS JUST TAKEN PLACE..." IT IS NOW ISRAEL'S TURN TO SPEAK, CONCLUDES ALAOUI; "PEACE IS NOT FOR TOMORROW, BUT

IT MAY BE FOR THE DAY AFTER, THANKS TO PRESIDENT SADAT WHO HAS TURNED A WAR STRATEGY INTO A PEACE STRATEGY."

3. ALL PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS FRONT-PAGE KING HASSAN'S REJECTION OF QAKHAFT'S CALL FOR ARAB OSTRACISM OF SADAT, SAYING"(WE BELIEVE) THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS FULLY DEVOTED TO THE FUNDAMENTAL LINES DRAWN UP BY THE ARAB NATION, IN PARTICULAR AT THE 1974 RABAT SUMMIT, AND BY HIS TRIP ATTEMPTED WITH STRENGTH AND SINCERITY TO UPHOLD THE LEGITIMACY AND FIRM FOUNDATION (OF ARAB POLICY)" EARLIER, ALL PAPERS ALSO REPRODUCED FULL TEXTS OF SADAT ADDRESS AND BEGIN REPLY. FRENCH LANGUAGE AL MAGHRIB BROKE LONGSTANDING TABOO BY PUBLISHING BEGIN PORTRAIT ABOVE HIS REMARKS AND UPI SHOT OF SADAT-BEGIN HADSHAKE. EDITORIAL IN SAME PAPER DEFENDS SADAT AGAINST CHORUS OF CRITICISM FROM OTHER ARAB STATES, SAYING HE HAS BROKEN THROUGH " A PSYCHOLOGICAL WALL" AND THAT HIS SINCERE DESIRE FOR PEACE CANNOT BE DENIED. ARABIC AL MITHAQ AL WATANI, REPRESENTING SAME POLITICAL TENDENCY, CALLS SADAT'S TRIP" A BRIDGE TO GENEVA."

4. ISTIQLAL PARTY PRESS, NO LONGER IN POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT, FINDS ITSELF TORN BETWEEN ITS OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT THE KING'S VIEWPOINT (CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER IS ISTIQLAL'S SECGEN). AND ITS LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. HENCE BOTH FRENCH-LANGUAGE L'OPINION AND ARABIC AL ALAM REPORT SADAT TRIP TO "OCCUPIED PALESTINE," AND HEADLINE CONTINUED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND FAILURE OF EITHER SADAT OR BEGIN TO MENTION PLO. SAME PAPERS SPECULATE OVER SINCERITY OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR SADAT INITIATIVE, SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON MAY IN FACT BE UPSET THAT IT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS LOST THE INITIATIVE AND MAY NOW BE REDUCED TO THE ROLE OF "FOLLOWER." IN CONTRAST, NOV. 23 L'OPINION CARRIES ITS REGULAR WEEKLY"PALESTINE" PAGE, REPORTEDLY PREPARED BY PLO'S PARIS OFFICE, ACCUSING SADAT OF CARRYING OUT A U.S. PLOT AND FOLLOWING THE KISSINGER SCHOOL OF REAL-POLITIK, WHICH IS NO MORE THAN CAPITULATION TO THE ENEMY - "AN EASY REALISM WHEN IT CONCERNS SOMEONE ELSE'S TERRITORY." PALESTINIAN WRITER PREDICTS SADAT TRIP WILL LEAD AT BEST TO A SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE, AT WORST TO DEEPENING DIVISIONS BETWEEN ARABS, PARTITION OF LEBANON, AND WIDENED RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY STATES WHICH HAD EARLIER BROKEN WITH HER.MOFFAT

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## Message Attributes

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